

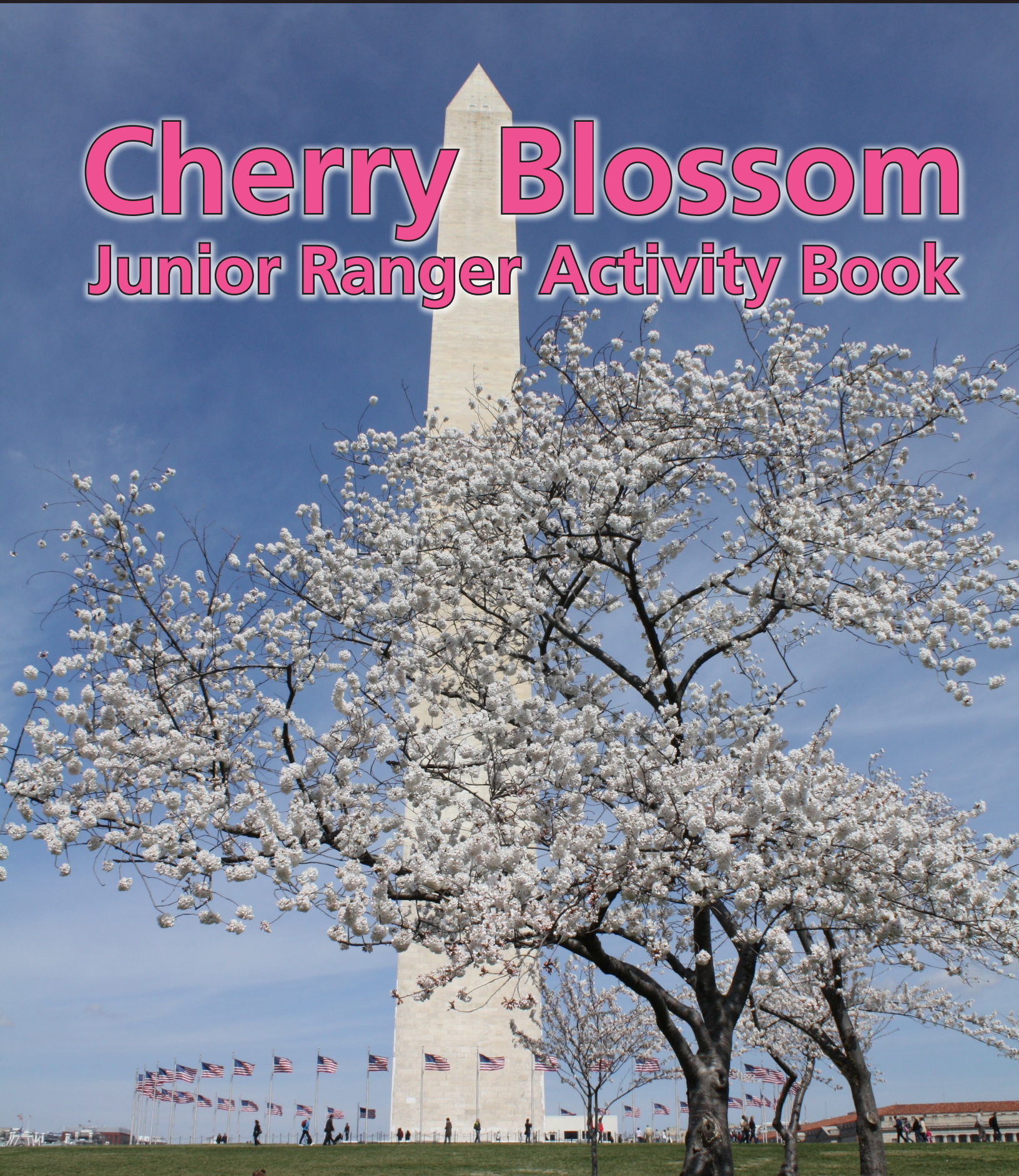
National Mall

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C.



Cherry Blossom Junior Ranger Activity Book



How can you become a Junior Ranger?

The Cherry Blossom Festival on the National Mall is a very special time. Once a year the National Mall is decorated with different shades of pink and white as thousands of cherry blossoms come to full bloom. Not only are these trees beautiful but they are symbolic of our friendship with the nation of Japan. There are more to these trees than meets the eye, including a great story about how they got here. This story spans over one hundred years!

How to become a Jr. Ranger:

You can be a part of the cherry blossom story by becoming a Jr. Ranger. Just complete the activities in this book and return it to a ranger for a special Cherry Blossom Jr. Ranger badge.

How can you help us protect the trees?

- Please leave the blossoms for all to enjoy.
- Climbing and swinging from the branches harms the trees.
- The limbs can break easily. Damaged bark admits insects and disease.
- Stay on the walkways to protect the roots.

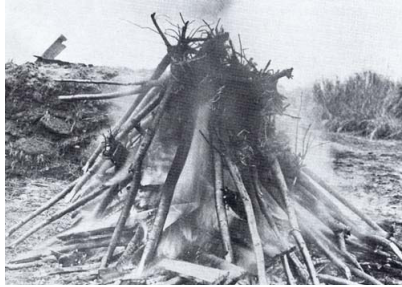


Cherry Trees through Time

The story of how cherry trees found their way onto the National Mall goes back over one hundred years. Here are some of the events that have occurred to bring us to the Cherry Blossom Festival we know today.



1854: Commodore Matthew Perry negotiates a treaty with Japan.



1910: 2,000 trees arrive from Japan. They are diseased and are burned.

1935: First official National Cherry Blossom Festival.



1954: Japanese lantern presented to D.C. to celebrate 100 years of friendship.

1860

1880

1900

1920

1940

1960

1980

1912: 3,000 healthy trees are planted.

1965: Lady Bird Johnson plants the first of 3,800 new trees.



1885: Eliza Scidmore begins campaign to get cherry trees in Washington, D.C.



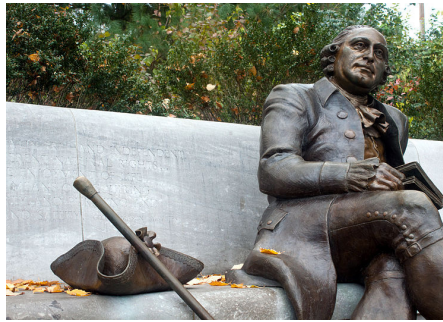
1938: Women protest the removal of cherry trees to build the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.



History Surrounds the Trees

See if you can get a “Bingo” (three in a row) by finding some of these other significant items as you explore the park. Tip: work on the last page of the book at two of these spots!

Mark an X on the items that you find.



Draw your own



Japanese Poetry, the Haiku

Haiku poetry developed from other forms of Japanese poetry during the 1600s. It has become a popular poetic form today. The Japanese liked this form of poetry to capture a single event or moment in time. Use these steps to create your own Haiku.

Step 1:

Think of an idea for your poem. It could be about your trip to see the cherry trees or your visit to the National Mall.

Step 2:

Haikus do not rhyme so use your imagination to paint a picture with your words.

Step 3:

Turn your idea into poetry by writing a Haiku which is three (3) short lines. The first line has five (5) syllables, the second line seven (7) syllables, and the third has five (5) syllables.

Here's an example:

Every spring it rains
1 2 3 4 5

Trees and flowers Awaken
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Color fills the air
1 2 3 4 5

Trees, Trees, Everywhere!

There are many national parks that are known for their trees. Different types of trees grow in different climates and life zones. Can you match the correct park names with the trees that make them famous?



Sequoia National Park



Sequoia National Park

National Mall and Memorial Parks

Joshua Tree National Park

Redwood National Park

Big Cypress National Park

Petrified Forest National Park

Japanese Symbols

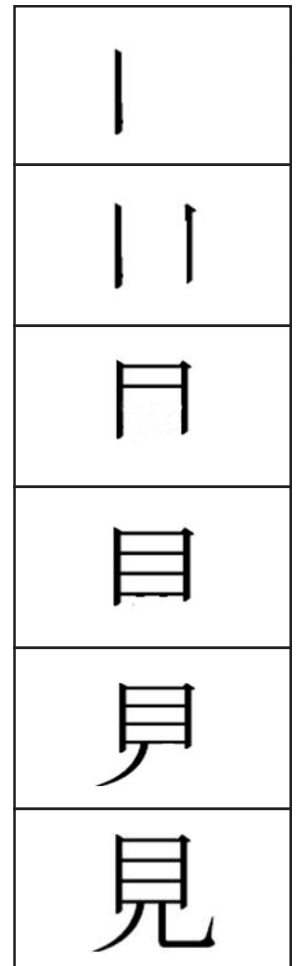
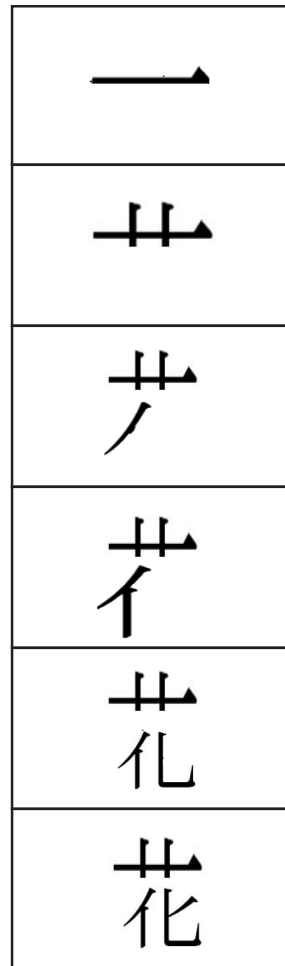
Japanese spelling is very different from English. Japanese often uses symbols instead of letters to make words and sentences. There are thousands of different symbols used in everyday life. How many do you think you could remember?

Hanami

Hanami = Viewing the trees



Use the following steps to create the Japanese symbol.

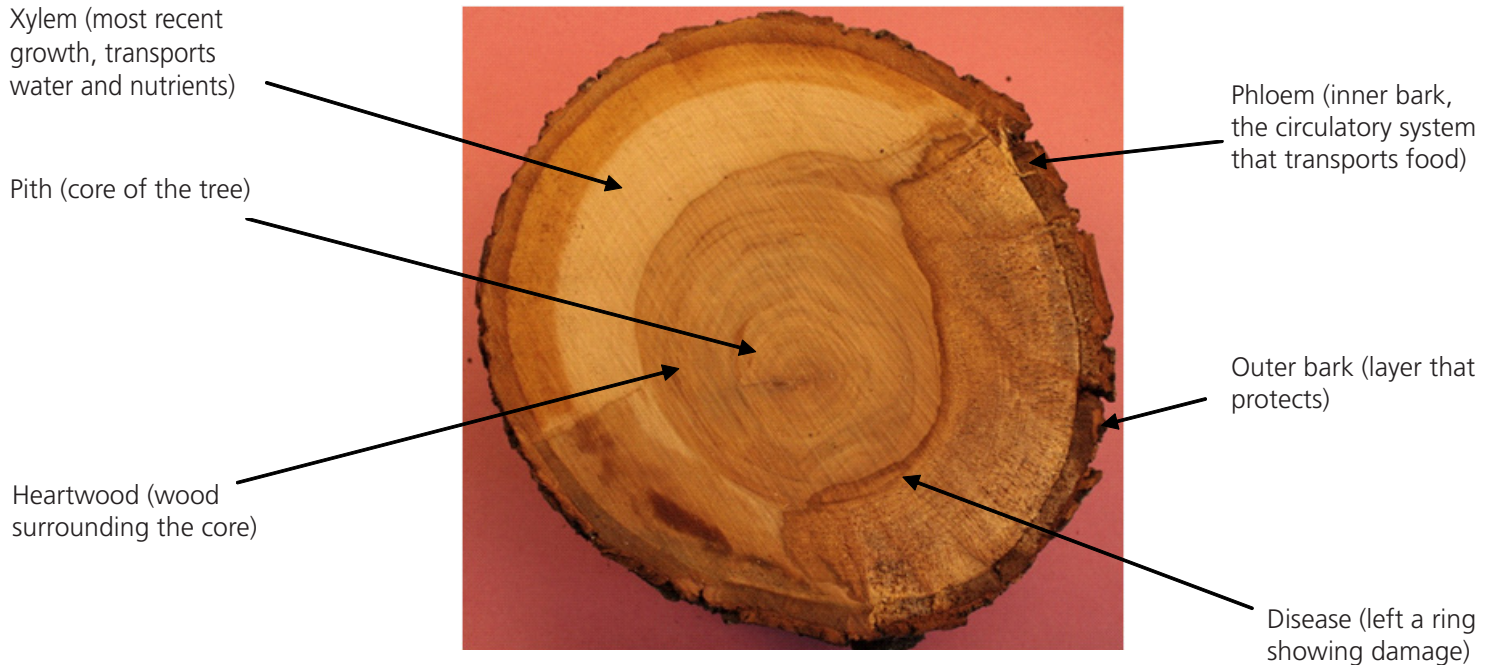


Draw the Hanami symbol

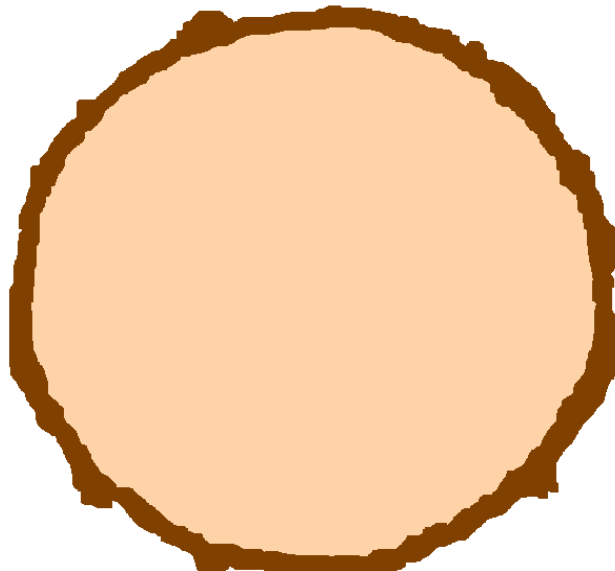


What's in a Tree?

In the cross section of a tree's trunk you can see many things. Scientists use these cross sections to determine a tree's age and things that happened to the tree during its life, including sickness, disease, and drought.



1. If we say that one tree ring equals one year of life, how many tree rings would you have? Draw rings in the trunk below, for the age that you are.
2. Mark the pith, heartwood and Xylem of your tree with an X. Shade the pith dark, the heartwood light, and leave the xylem uncolored.



Ready, Set, Bloom!

Cherry blossoms don't just bloom overnight. It takes a long time to go from the first stage to the last and they look different during these different stages. Draw a line from the stage to the picture it matches.



A

Stage 1: Florets Visible



B

Stage 2: Peduncle Elongation



C

Stage 3: Puffy White

Stage 4: Full Bloom



D



You can find a variety of wildlife on the National Mall even though you’re in the middle of a big city. Every animal and person that comes through the park affects the way of life for these creatures who call the National Mall home. During your journey, one of the animals you may encounter is the gray squirrel. Squirrels rely on many parts of nature to survive. Which of the items below do you think they need to survive?

Remember: Wild animals don’t eat the kind of food people do and they can be very aggressive. For the safety of you and the animals, please don’t feed or approach the wildlife.

Potato Chips	Berries	Trees	Hot Dogs
Acorns	Cars	Hawks	
Trash	Nests	Insects	Pants

Draw a scene with all of the things that a gray squirrel needs to survive.

Other Gifts from Japan

Are you a good detective? Visit at least one of the two places shown below and answer the questions about these gifts from Japan.



1. According to the plaque near the lantern, the gift of cherry trees was a “gesture of _____ and _____”

2. What special event happens at the lantern to signal the ceremonial start of the cherry blossom festival? (Hint: look for a sign by the sidewalk).

Bonus: First Lady Helen Taft helped plant the first trees in 1912, but a small plaque at the base of a tree near the lantern recognizes what other tree planting first lady?

Mrs. _____

Fun Fact: The Japanese lantern is the oldest structure in Washington, D.C. It was built in 17th-century Japan and given to the United States in 1954.

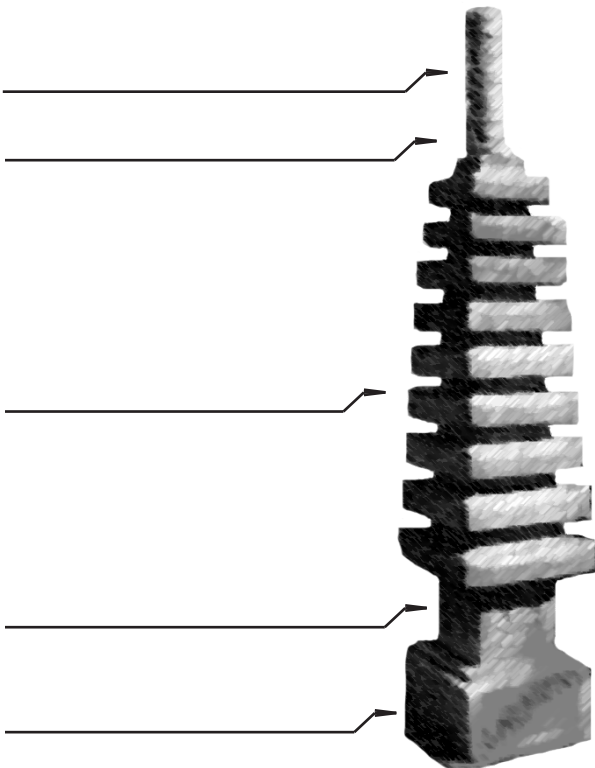
Japanese Lantern
near Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

or

1. Label the elements represented on the Japanese Pagoda on the lines to the right. (Hint: look for a sign by the sidewalk).

2. What can you see, hear, smell, and feel around the pagoda that matches the elements it represents?

Fun Fact: The Japanese Pagoda was shipped from Japan in separate pieces and it did not come with assembly instructions. Researchers at the Library of Congress were eventually able to figure out the correct order.



Japanese Pagoda
near Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

National Mall and Memorial Parks

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This certifies that

_____ has completed the activities required to become a
National Mall and Memorial Parks Junior Ranger
and therefore promises to explore, learn and protect
our National Parks.

Park Ranger Signature _____

